

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 3, 4, 13, 18 and 23 and AMEND claims 1, 2, 5-12, 14-17 and 19-22 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended): A visiting customer management system including a storage medium carried by a customer, in which at least customer identification information is stored, and a ~~non-contact-first~~ detector that detects in a non-contact manner the information stored in said storage medium and that is arranged in a shop, comprising:

a customer information storage device in which at least the customer identification information and a group to which said customer belongs are stored in advance; ~~and~~

a visiting-customer information storage device in which customer identification information detected by said ~~non-contact-first~~ detector is stored in association with a detection time at which the customer identification information is obtained; ~~and~~

a terminal that includes a second detector which detects customer identification information, wherein,

when the second detector detects customer identification information, customer identification information for another customer who belongs to a same group as said customer is read from said customer information storage device, and if the customer identification information for said another customer is stored in said visiting-customer information storage device, said customer is recognized to have come with another member of the group and a reward is given to said customer.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The visiting customer management system according to Claim 1, wherein said storage medium is a radio-frequency identification (RFID) tag.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A-~~The~~ visiting customer management system according to Claim 1, further comprising a terminal that includes a detector which detects customer identification information, wherein: ~~when said detector included in said terminal detects customer identification information, customer identification information on other customer who belongs to the same group as said customer is read from said customer information storage device; and when the customer identification information on other customer who belongs to the same group as said customer is stored in said visiting customer information storage device, if the difference between a detection time at which the customer identification information is detected and a detection time at which the customer identification information on other for another customer is detected falls within a predetermined period of time, said customer is recognized to have come with another member of the group.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A-~~The~~ visiting customer management system according to Claim 5, wherein said second terminal is a point-of-sales (POS) terminal.

7. (Currently Amended) A-~~The~~ visiting customer management system according to Claim 1, further comprising a terminal that includes a detector which detects customer identification information, and a host computer that judges whether a customer has come with ~~other another~~ member of a group to which he/she belongs, wherein:

when said second detector included in said terminal detects customer identification information, said terminal reads customer identification information ~~on other for another~~ customer, who belongs to the same group as said customer, from said customer information storage device, and notifies said host computer of the read customer identification information; and

when the customer identification information ~~on other for another~~ customer who belongs to the same group as said customer is stored in said visiting customer information storage device, if and the difference between a detection time at which the customer identification information on said customer is detected and a detection time at which the customer identification information ~~on other for said another~~ customer is detected falls within a predetermined period of time, said host computer judges that said customer has come with another member of the group.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The visiting customer management system according to Claim 1, further comprising ~~a terminal that includes a detector which detects customer identification information, and~~ a host computer that judges whether a customer has come with ~~other another~~ member of a group to which he/she belongs, wherein:

when said second detector ~~included in said terminal~~ detects customer identification information, said terminal notifies said host computer of the customer identification information;

said host computer reads customer identification information ~~on for~~ another customer, who belongs to the same group as said customer, from said customer information storage device; and

when ~~the other~~ said another customer identification information ~~on another customer~~ who belongs to the same group as said customer is stored in said visiting-customer information storage device, if and the difference between a detection time at which the customer identification information on said customer is detected and a detection time at which the customer identification information ~~on other~~ for said another customer is detected falls within a predetermined period of time, said host computer judges that said customer has come with another member of the group.

9. (Currently Amended) A visiting customer management system including a storage medium carried by a customer, in which at least customer identification information is stored, and a ~~non-contact first~~ detector that detects in a non-contact manner the information stored in said storage medium and that is arranged in a shop, comprising:

a customer information storage device in which the customer identification information and a group to which said customer belongs are stored in advance; and

a terminal including a second detector that detects customer identification information, wherein:

said second detector ~~included in said terminal~~ detects the customer identification information on said customer;

said ~~non-contact first~~ detector obtains customer identification information on other customers that are present in said shop;

~~when if~~ customer identification information on ~~other another~~ member of the group to which said customer belongs corresponds to one of the pieces of customer identification information on the other customers that are present in said shop, said customer is recognized to have come with another member of the group and a reward is given to said customer.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ visiting customer management system according to Claim 9, wherein said storage medium is ~~an~~ a radiofrequency identification (RFID) tag.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ visiting customer management system according to Claim 9, wherein said terminal is a point-of-sales (POS) terminal.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ visiting customer management system according to Claim 9, wherein said ~~non-contact-first~~ detector is arranged so that it can simultaneously detect the pieces of customer identification information on all the customers that are present in said shop.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A visiting customer management system including a storage medium carried by a customer, in which at least customer identification information is stored, and a ~~non-contact-first~~ detector that detects in a non-contact manner the information stored in said storage device and that is arranged in a shop, comprising:

a customer information storage device in which the customer identification information and a group to which said customer belongs are stored in advance;

a terminal including a second detector that detects customer identification information; and

a host computer, wherein:

when said second detector ~~included in said terminal~~ detects the customer identification information on said customer, said terminal notifies said host computer of the detected customer identification information;

said host computer obtains customer identification information on ~~other~~ another customer, who belongs to the same group as said customer, from said customer information storage device, and notifies said terminal of the customer identification information on ~~other~~ said another customer; and

if one of pieces of customer identification information ~~on~~ for other customers that are present in said shop corresponds to the customer identification information ~~on other~~ for said another member who belongs to the same group as said customer, said terminal judges that said customer has come with ~~other~~ another member of the group and said reward is given to said customer.

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ visiting customer management system according to Claim 14, wherein said storage medium is an a radiofrequency identification (RFID) tag.

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ visiting customer management system according to Claim 14, wherein said terminal is a point-of-sales (POS) terminal.

17. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ visiting customer management system according to Claim 14, wherein said ~~non-contact-first~~ detector is arranged so that it can simultaneously detect the pieces of customer identification information on all the customers in said shop.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A visiting customer management system including a storage medium carried by a customer, in which at least customer identification information is stored, and a ~~non-contact-first~~ detector that detects, in a non-contact manner, the information stored in said storage device and that is arranged in a shop, comprising:

a customer information storage device in which the customer identification information and a group to which said customer belongs are stored in advance;

a terminal including a second detector that detects customer identification information;
and

a host computer, wherein:

said second detector ~~included in said terminal~~ detects the customer identification information on said customer;

said ~~non-contact-first~~ detector detects pieces of customer identification information on other customers that are present in said shop;

said host computer is notified of the detected customer identification information and the detected pieces of customer identification information on the other customers that are present in said shop; and

if customer identification information on ~~other~~ another member of the group to which said customer belongs corresponds to one of the pieces of customer identification information on the other customers that are present in said shop, said host computer judges that said customer has

come with another member of the group and notifies said terminal of the result of the judgment,
and a reward is given to said customer.

20. (Currently Amended) A The visiting customer management system according to Claim 19, wherein said storage medium is an a radiofrequency identification (RFID) tag.

21. (Currently Amended) A The visiting customer management system according to Claim 19, wherein said terminal is a point-of-sales (POS) terminal.

22. (Currently Amended) A visiting customer management system according to Claim 19, wherein said ~~non-contact~~ first detector is arranged so that it can simultaneously detect the customer identification information of all the customers in said shop.

23. (Cancelled)